



SEIUHealthcare[®]
United for Quality Care

January 7, 2011

Via Fax: (202) 225-1968

Congresswoman Betty McCollum
1714 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Julie Schnell
President

Dear Congresswoman McCollum:

Jigme Ugen
Secretary-Treasurer

Tee McClelleny
 Executive Vice President

On behalf of the 17,000 healthcare workers who are members of SEIU Healthcare Minnesota, I would like to thank you for your strong leadership in passing the Affordable Care Act. As Congress takes up a vote to repeal this important legislation, please share with your colleagues the experience of SEIU member, Mindy Tomfohrde. Mindy is an Admissions Clerk at Olmsted Medical Center Hospital in southern Minnesota. On January 5th, she spoke at a press conference with Governor Dayton. In his first act as Governor, he signed an Executive Order to accept \$1.4 billion in new Federal healthcare funding available under the bill. This new federal money will create or save more than 20,000 good jobs for workers in our hospitals, nursing homes and clinics all across Minnesota. In these difficult economic times, nothing is more important than making sure more Minnesotans have a job they can depend on. Too many Minnesota jobs will be lost if the Affordable Care Act is repealed.

In her report Mindy spoke about how the bill protects both the patients she cares for and her own family.

As a healthcare worker, and working in admissions, I see so many people, many of them children using urgent care as their primary care because they can't afford anything else. Like all of us, they're working harder every day to make ends meet. Either they make too much to qualify for Medicaid or the place they work doesn't offer insurance, or there's insurance but they can't afford to pay the premiums. It's scary seeing all those families using Urgent Care as their primary care because that's all they can afford. That is why I fought so hard to make sure Congress passed the Affordable Care Act that allowed Minnesota to get Federal funds to cover more people in our state Medicaid program.

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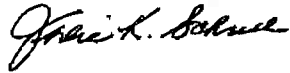
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The Affordable Care Act, not only protects our jobs and patients, it also protects our families. When my oldest daughter graduated from college and took her first job, she spent two years without health insurance. She made too much money to qualify for public assistance but not enough to pay for coverage herself. Now, because of the Affordable Care Act, my youngest daughter – who is approaching college graduation – won't have to face that. She can stay on the health insurance I get through my job until she's 26.

To protect Mindy's patients, her families, and the jobs of 20,000 Minnesotans, please continue to oppose efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely yours,



Julie Schnell
President
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota

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